



Snohomish County
Office of the Executive
Aaron Reardon
County Executive

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Contact: Christopher Schwarzen

Office: 425-388-3883

Email: Christopher.Schwarzen@snoco.org

New family homes made possible with Snohomish County help

Snohomish County celebrated Friday with eight Housing Hope families entering new homes for the first time.

Since Housing Hope's start 20 years ago, Snohomish County has come alongside the nonprofit -- which provides housing for low-income families -- ensuring that the mission of providing affordable housing continues.

On Friday, eight families received keys to their new homes in the Sky Meadow East development found in Monroe. Last month, another eight families moved into new homes at Sky Meadow West, also located in Monroe.

"Together, we are creating affordable housing opportunities for Snohomish County families," said County Executive Aaron Reardon. "We are committed to helping every family in Snohomish County achieve the American dream of home ownership."

Snohomish County annually assists Housing Hope with a \$30,000 grant that the nonprofit uses to support its general operations. The county also has routinely provided financial assistance for Housing Hope's individual neighborhood developments, which offer opportunities for low-income families to own a home.

Housing Hope also leverages funding from Snohomish County to apply for and receive grant money from state and federal sources.

"State and federal sources look to see whether we have support from the county or not," said Fred Safstrom, Housing Hope's chief development officer. "County funding enables us to receive additional sources of support."

Families selected by Housing Hope must provide 30 hours of labor per week. Fifty percent of that labor can be completed by friends, other family, and in the case of the Monroe developments, the faith community.

"The pride of home ownership is even greater when you have a hand in building the home," said Deanna Dawson, County Executive Director overseeing Human Services. "It's exciting to see so many partners coming together to bring families home for the holidays."

Through Snohomish County's assistance, more than 190 Housing Hope families have found permanent homes since the nonprofit's inception. Its organization is accepting applications now for its newest development, which will be located in Stanwood.

Housing Hope information: 425-347-6556 or www.housinghope.org.

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